

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 5th May 2024

Papers were published on the church website on 24th April, and in the email newsletter on 2nd May. Hard-copies were available at the meeting.

Claire opened the meeting with a prayer.

Choosing of Churchwardens

Nominations have been received for Kay Tauschwitz and Karen Lambert. Claire thanked Karen and Kay for all their work over the past year – they are a really good and complementary team, and it's been great to see so much progress being made.

Karen Lambert (Proposed by Charlotte; Seconded by Nicki)

Kay Tauschwitz (Proposed by Kathleen; Seconded by Carol)

No others wished to stand, so Karen and Kay are elected.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

1. Minutes of Annual Meetings of 2023

Claire shared the minutes – no comments were recorded.

The minutes were approved by everyone present who was in attendance at last year's meeting.

2. Matters Arising

All matters arising will be covered in the agenda to follow.

3. The Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll was revised in April 2023, and now contains 84 names. Although the numbers are similar, we have had new people who have joined, and sadly some people are deceased.

Wendy Blight is the Electoral Roll officer. Last year the total was 83.

4. Elections to the PCC

Stepping down are Wendy Blight and Sue Young, who have both completed their 6 year terms. Hayley has completed her one year last year but is happy to stand again. Janet Sturt has stepped down after 4.5 years. All others are happy to continue. We have nominations for all 4 vacancies:

Hayley Bunce for PCC (Proposed by Karen, Seconded by Jean)

Claire Boud for PCC (Proposed by Margaret, Seconded by Phil)

Madeleine Manfield for PCC (Proposed by Janet, Seconded by Charlotte)

Sally Banks for PCC (Proposed by Nicki, Seconded by Anesa)

5. Appointment of Sidesmen (Welcoming Team)

The team are:

Sue Treherne and Lisa Keers, Graham and Jean Brown, Margaret Murray and Carol Meckiffe, and Charlotte Palmer-Ladd and Nina Wallace, and Kay and Adanna and their families.

This team was approved by all at the meeting.

6. Church Wardens Report 2023-2024

Karen commented that many things which were ongoing this time last year have now settled down, for example, the clunch work. We're progressing with work to safeguard the future of the church buildings.

We've talked a lot about Twinning in our meetings, and it will occupy a lot of our time in the coming year.

We have seen the end of our duties as trustees of the nursery.

Huge thanks to Karen and Kay for all the work that they have done over the past year.

There were no questions for Karen Lambert.

7. PCC Report to APCM 2024

The report summarises the activities going on in the church in the past year. The Church Development Plan is summarised below, which underpins our plans and our work.

Our aim for 2024

Grow in discipleship:

- Prayer and book ideas continue
- Diverse services offered across 2 churches
- 1st communion and confirmation preparation shared

Grow in welcome and inclusion:

- Linking teams across the 2 churches
- Joint social events to grow friendships across churches
- Steering group to form plan for ministry and mission

Grow in links to the community:

- Develop planning and communication across 2 churches
- Explore communication to wider community e.g. Instagram
- Eco teams look at next steps for both churches

Phil: is there a reason to try and get more people to get married here? Claire: it is a good way to get to know new people in our community. We have done flyers and communications to say everyone in the community is welcome to marry here or to hold funerals at the church, even if they are not regular church-goers. We believe numbers have fallen for weddings due to venues offering a complete package, which avoids transporting everyone to the reception after a church service. We believe numbers for funerals have decreased due to a change in approach by funeral directors. They now ask about attendance at church – and if they didn't regularly attend a church automatically direct them to a celebrant, who will often work for the funeral director. Previously they would ask if they wanted the local vicar to take the service, even if they didn't normally attend church.

We need to do more work to communicate regularly, often and in different ways. Margaret suggested included something in the Parish newsletter. Chris P-L suggested reaching people on the internet – we'll look at our website and review how we are communicating on wedding and funeral services.

8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Huge thanks to Sue who has done the Treasurer role this year, with the support of the Finance Team.

Sue reported that the accounts are mostly similar from year to year. A change of approach to expenses – we're trying to save for maintenance now, towards things we know we have in our plan. By the time our current savings are depleted, we will then have more money saved up for future projects. Trying to be more proactive, as it's normally cheaper to do work earlier.

9. Safeguarding and Other Reports

Julie G is our Safeguarding Officer – any concerns you can speak to Julie, or either of the Churchwardens. Wendy and Karen are on the Safeguarding team and assist with keeping all the training and DBS checks up to date.

Email address for any enquires is dbs@stpaulschurchtongham.org.uk

Children and Families reports:

Pam heads up children's groups at Sunday

Dave leads the youth group on Sunday evenings.

Claire B is our community worker who leads the mid-week activities

There is also a Messy Church team.

We're really lucky having such great involvement from children and young people of such a wide age range. One child said they liked coming because the Vicar knew them.

10. Appointment of Examiner

Mike Ellis has been our examiner of accounts in the past year and is also taking on this responsibility for St Peter's.

Mike Ellis is proposed as Examiner for the coming year: Proposer Phil; Seconder Charlotte

All in favour – Approved.

11. Revd Claire Holt

We have good natured and active PCC group. Many people are involved in so many teams – a very big thankyou to everyone who gets involved in the life of St Paul's.

Claire read the following statement, prepared for the APCM meetings at both St Peter's and at St Paul's:

During the past year we have launched the Twinning process, which was announced at both churches in October, after several years of conversations with the Archdeacon and Diocese and an initial conversation with our PCCs. There was a launch event in January, led by Jens, from the Diocese, which enabled us to begin to share some of the things we like about our parishes, what needs there may be and how we might work together. As well as ask some questions, share our concerns, and what excites us.

This was followed by small groups, which have been meeting once a month in February, March and April. The comments from these groups are being fed back to Jens and will be discussed at a Steering Group meeting in May.

We have shared some services and visited each other's churches. It has been great to get to know each other and it has been great to worship together in different styles – the diversity of styles of service is something we will continue to celebrate and share moving forward. We also shared our Advent and Lent resources.

It has been really lovely to look back and see how far we have come in getting to know one another and share what we do – so much to celebrate and give thanks for!

Things to celebrate:

- The diversity of services on offer across the 2 churches

- The fantastic volunteers and teams in both churches
- The welcome that has been given across the 2 churches
- The ideas that have been suggested – some exciting opportunities to do ministry and mission together.

So, what are the next steps?

1. The Steering Group will meet with Jens and look at all the feedback and comments gathered so far. They will then put together a plan to discuss with the 2 PCCs. This Steering Group includes all 3 clergy, all 4 wardens and one older and one younger member of our churches to ensure good representation in the discussion.
2. We are beginning to join up committees, where it is helpful to share experience, people and ideas. The Eco teams have met together in April, and we are looking at how best to share planning events and communication too.
3. We are looking to offer a course to prepare for first communions together in the summer term.
4. St Peter's and St Paul's day will be a great celebration together – with picnics and finishing with an evensong – combining the different ways we have celebrated this date in the past as separate churches!

We will have PCC meetings to discuss the plan from the Steering Group and will have some joint PCC meetings too.

We plan to continue to offer monthly updates and answer questions – please add to boxes in our churches or speak with any of the clergy (in person, by phone or email).

St Paul's will have 3 Café church services this term (3rd Sunday), when we will encourage anyone who would like to, to attend the 10am at St Peter's. And any who would like to join Café church at 4pm, will be very welcome!

We will continue to share events and activities – giving a wonderful variety of ways to continue to get to know each other and support what both churches do.

Church Development Plan

Our aim for 2024

Grow in discipleship:

- Prayer and book ideas continue
- Diverse services offered across 2 churches
- 1st communion and confirmation preparation shared

Grow in welcome and inclusion:

- Linking teams across the 2 churches
- Joint social events to grow friendships across churches
- Steering group to form plan for ministry and mission

Grow in links to the community:

- Develop planning and communication across 2 churches
- Explore communication to wider community e.g. Instagram
- Eco teams look at next steps for both churches

This morning we heard the story of the feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6: 30-44).

- Can we see the needs around us?
- What can we offer?

To the Twinning process: we will need a wider range of skills, many from the workplace as we look at best ways to do things moving forward. Eg. HR, change management, project

management.

To the church family: in playing our part, getting involved on Sunday, in the week .

To God: where is he calling us to serve Him? school, college, work, community, church...

Are we ready to be amazed by what God can do?

The verse for our Church Development Plan is **Psalm 40 v1-3:**

I patiently waited, LORD, for you to hear my prayer.

You listened and pulled me from a lonely pit full of mud and mire.

You let me stand on a rock with my feet firm,

and you gave me a new song, a song of praise to you.

Many will see this, and they will honour and trust you, the LORD God.

There is something about waiting and something about patience in these verses!

But this also reminds us:

- God hears our prayers – keep praying!
- He pulls us from the messiness and gives us the rock to stand on, when we trust in Him.
- A new song of praise – positive, hopeful, exciting – so much to thank God for!
- Many will see and will trust in God – we want to see new people coming to faith! If we do Twinning well, it will get people thinking, seeing God at work.

We have an exciting future, but a bit of patience and waiting is required for now. God's timing is perfect – we need to trust in Him! And one of my favourite verses from 1 Thess 5 v24:

The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it!

Revd Claire Holt

13. Any Other Business

Janet – can St Peter's watch our services which we record online? Claire: yes, the link is on our Facebook page, and on our website. Do they have services online too? No they don't currently do this.

Claire closed the meeting in prayer.

V1.0 11th May 2024

Sally Banks, PCC Secretary